# CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

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## LETTER DATED 26 NOVEMBER 2001 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE CONFERENCE TRANSMITTING THE TEXT OF STATEMENTS DATED 9 AND 16 NOVEMBER 2001 BY THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION ON RUSSIAN COMPLIANCE WITH ITS OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE TREATY ON CONVENTIONAL ARMED FORCES IN EUROPE

I have the honour to transmit the text of statements dated 9 and 16 November 2001 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation on Russian compliance with its obligations under the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe.

I should be grateful if the statements could be issued as official documents of the Conference on Disarmament and distributed to the delegations of all member States of the Conference and non-member States participating in its work.

(Signed) Leonid A. SKOTNIKOV
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of
the Russian Federation to the
Conference on Disarmament

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**STATEMENT BY THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION ON RUSSIAN COMPLIANCE WITH ITS OBLIGATIONS PURSUANT TO THE JOINT STATEMENT MADE AT THE ISTANBUL SUMMIT ON 17 NOVEMBER 1999 BY THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION AND GEORGIA**

The Russian Federation is continuing to fulfil its obligations pursuant to the joint statement by the Russian Federation and Georgia at the Istanbul Summit on 17 November 1999.

In accordance with the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE Treaty), the surplus Russian weapons and equipment in Georgian territory subject to limitations under the CFE Treaty were withdrawn from that country in good time, that is, prior to 31 December 2000, and also partially destroyed in situ. This process was carried out under conditions of transparency and monitored by international inspectors.

In the summer of 2001, the Russian military base at Vaziani was dismantled and the troops withdrawn.

The recently completed withdrawal of the remaining equipment and personnel from the former Russian military base at Gudauta, which was officially dismantled on 1 July 2001, marks a further important step in the fulfilment of the Istanbul statement. To achieve this, the Russian Federation was obliged to deploy considerable additional efforts. We express our gratitude to the Abkhaz authorities for the assistance that they rendered in the performance of this task. As a result, the Gudauta Russian military base has been dismantled not only de jure, but also de facto.

A number of infrastructure facilities at the Gudauta military base will continue, as before, to be used by the collective peacekeeping forces of the Commonwealth of Independent States in the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict zone. Commonwealth peacekeepers will remain in Gudauta as part of the back-up team.

The completed dismantling and withdrawal of the Russian military base in Gudauta does away with certain complaints and concerns on the Georgian side and it is the view in Moscow that compliance by Russia with its obligations under the Istanbul statement will be conducive to the development of good-neighbourly relations between the Russian Federation and Georgia.

9 November 2001

**STATEMENT BY THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION ON RUSSIAN COMPLIANCE WITH ITS OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE TREATY ON CONVENTIONAL ARMED FORCES IN EUROPE**

On 14 November 2001 the last train carrying weaponry and military equipment subject to restrictions under the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE Treaty) left the Trans-Dniester region of the Republic of Moldova for the Russian Federation. In accordance with the commitments it made at Istanbul (November 1999) in the context of the CFE Treaty, Russia was to withdraw and/or destroy 364 items of military equipment, a figure derived from data previously supplied by the Russian side under the Treaty. Of that number, 125 items were withdrawn and 239 destroyed. All details of the withdrawal and destruction of military property were duly documented by representatives of OSCE.

The Russian Federation has thus honoured the commitments it made in Istanbul fully, completely and, incidentally, ahead of time. The process of giving effect to the decisions reached in Istanbul (outside the CFE context) will continue.

The collaboration between Russia, the authorities of the Trans-Dniester region in the Republic of Moldova, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and that Organization's Mission in Chisinau, in arranging for the withdrawal and destruction of the aforesaid property, and the cooperation of the Republic of Moldova, have made a favourable impression in Moscow. The constructive position taken by Ukraine as regards transit of the military cargoes through its territory and reimbursement of the Russian side's costs associated with the withdrawal and destruction exercise from the OSCE Voluntary Fund is of considerable importance.

Russia has, of course, also met its obligations vis-à-vis Georgia under the CFE Treaty entirely and within the agreed deadlines.

This is testimony to the Russian side's commitment to honour its obligations under international law in the matter of conventional arms control.

It is our expectation that our partners under the CFE Treaty who undertook obligations in the Final Act of the Conference of the States Parties (Istanbul, 19 November 1999) will treat the discharge of those obligations with just as much scrupulousness and good will.

16 November 2001

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